

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 4, 2004, claim 15 was rejected as being unpatentable over the combination of several references. Without acceding to the Patent Office's position, and in the interest of furthering prosecution of the application, Applicants have cancelled claim 15. As a result, the rejections of claim 15 detailed in the Office Action are moot and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

No new claims have been added. The amendments do not and are not intended to narrow the scope of the claims.

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 4-14 and 25-33 will be pending in the application, with claims 1, 12, 15, and 25 being independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Patent Office's indication that claims 1, 4-14 and 25-33 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the above-identified application are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

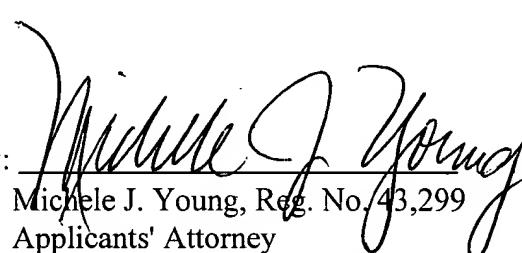
If the present application is found by the Examiner not to be in condition for allowance, then the Applicants hereby request a telephone or personal interview to facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters. Applicants' attorney may be contacted by telephone at the number indicated below to schedule such an interview.

Art Unit: 1753
Serial No: 09/833,036
Examiner: Versteeg, Steven H.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our deposit account #19-0120.

Respectfully submitted,
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